

# Quarterly NEWS-LETTER

OF THE BOOK CLUB OF  
CALIFORNIA

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### FIFTEEN DAYS—211 COPIES

by ALBERT M. BENDER, Chairman, Publication Committee

THE announcement of "A Leaf from the 1611 King James Bible," the Club's latest publication, was mailed to members on May 12. Fifteen days later, on May 27, orders totalling 211 copies had been received, with further applications arriving daily.

After such a start, it requires no great skill as a forecaster to prophesy that the 300 copies printed will hardly supply every member who will want a copy. The Club regrets that some are likely to be disappointed, but only 300 Bible leaves were available and the edition therefore had to be limited to that number. As this is

written, 89 copies remain on hand. Applications for these will be filled strictly in the order received, and members who return the enclosed card *promptly* may be reasonably sure of receiving their copies.

The above applies only to the regular \$6.00 copies of the book. Of those priced at \$9.00 none remains. Only 35 such copies were available; to-date the orders total 116! (In passing, it should be pointed out that the books are identical except for the inserted Bible leaf, which in the case of the higher priced copies open a book of the Bible and are therefore somewhat more interesting typographically.) Fortunately, the possibility that the \$9.00 copies might be oversubscribed was foreseen, and in that case it was provided that a drawing be held to determine who would receive them. To allow time for the return of orders from Eastern members, the drawing was delayed until May 26, two weeks after the mailing of the announcements. Numbers representing the 116 orders for the \$9.00 copies were placed in a hat and 35 were drawn out by the Club's President, Alfred Sutro. The names of those receiving the 35 copies follow:

Mrs. Edward H. Heller, Menlo Park; Norman D. Weeden, San Francisco; Daniel E. Koshland, San Francisco; Waldemar Young, Hollywood; Dr. J. M. Wolfsohn, San Francisco; Oscar Moss, Los Angeles; Nathan Eckstein, Seattle; B. J. Feigenbaum, San Francisco; Walter Rothchild, San Francisco; R. W. Miller, San Francisco; Miss Barbara Kahn, San Mateo; Mrs. Hugo Arnstein, San Francisco; Mrs. C. S. Postley, Burlingame; Mrs. Charles W. Rosenbaum, San Francisco; Mrs. E. L. Doheny, Los Angeles; J. D. Zellerbach, San Francisco; Lawrence Livingston, San Fran-

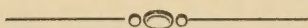


cisco; Mrs. Sidney M. Ehrman, San Francisco; E. Roberts Bailey, Jr., Los Angeles; Mrs. E. S. Heller, Menlo Park; Mrs. A. B. Swinerton, Woodside; Harold H. Swift, Chicago; Alfred Ehrman, San Francisco; G. A. Pfeiffer, New York City; Maurice E. Harrison, San Francisco; William Deans, San Francisco; Donald L. Williams, Berkeley; William P. Wreden, Burlingame; John I. Perkins, Los Angeles; Ernest A. Bruer, San Francisco; William Roy Clary, Ashland, Oregon; William B. Partmann, San Francisco; Omar C. Spencer, Portland, Oregon; Paul Goldsmith, Piedmont; Bertram F. Shipman, New York City.

Following the procedure outlined in the announcement, all orders for the \$9.00 copies, except those drawn, were filled with the regular \$6.00 books.

The Club is of course gratified at the support members have given this publication. The interest of the original leaf bound in each copy, the importance of the two essays that compose the text—John Livingston Lowes' "The Greatest Monument of English Prose" and Louis I. Newman's "The Printing of the King James Bible"—and the distinguished printing of The Grabhorn Press combine to make it a publication that the Club is happy to have issued and that the members, we are sure, will be delighted to own.

A final word to those who have not yet ordered: To be sure of a copy do not fail to forward your order today.



## CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA SHORT STORIES

STEWART EDWARD WHITE'S "The Hold-Up"  
and Gelett Burgess' "A Murder at the Dome," parts

one and two of the Club's keepsakes series for 1937, were distributed in February and April respectively. They were designed and printed by Johnck & Seeger and the University of California Press.

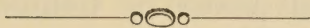
Part Three, to reach members about June 15, will be Charles Caldwell Dobie's "The Crystal Ball," the design and printing of which will be done by John Henry Nash. From his many outstanding stories of San Francisco Mr. Dobie has selected for inclusion in the series this powerful and imaginative tale of Maria Escobar, daughter of Spain, and of the hunchback, Flavio Menetti; it is a story of "terror and a cruel inevitability"—and of much fine writing. Mr. Nash's printing of the story is in his usual distinguished style.

In August the Club will present Part Four: Gertrude Atherton's "The Foghorn," a story only recently written but already regarded by many as one of the most impressive pieces of short fiction relating to San Francisco. "The Foghorn" will mark the first appearance in a Club publication of this distinguished California author and the Club is delighted that she is to be represented by so original and powerful a tale. The story will receive appropriate typographical treatment by The Grabhorn Press. Both "The Crystal Ball" and "The Foghorn" will contain forewords by their authors, written for the series. Details of the final two parts, to appear in October and December, will be announced in due course.

Comments from members endorsing the Club's plan of issuing, in attractive format, the favorite short stories of six noted California authors have been encouragingly numerous. Because the full set is likely to prove an unusually desirable item to collectors of California liter-



ature, the Club again recommends that members assure the safekeeping of the individual parts by the purchase of a slipcase. The cases, especially made for the series and supplied to members at cost, are priced as follows: for all-cloth covering, \$2.00; for cloth with morocco back, \$3.00, plus (for sales in California) the state sales tax of 6 cents and 9 cents respectively.



## THE CALIFORNIA COLLECTION IN THE STATE LIBRARY

by CAROLINE WENZEL

*Editor's Note: The remarkably complete and well-organized collections of the California Section of the State Library at Sacramento have long been known to amateur and professional research workers who have there sought information about the history or literature of the state. Book collectors will find this account of the Library's facilities and services in these fields of uncommon interest. Miss Wenzel is Supervising Librarian of the Library's California Section.*

THE California Section of the State Library, formerly called the California Department, is housed in a suitable room especially designed for it on the third floor of the State Library Building in Sacramento. The acquisition of California material actually began in 1850 when the State Library was established. The California Department, however, was not organized as such until 1903. At that time the State Library, which was then housed in the State Capitol, had throughout its collection books, magazines, and newspapers which were either printed in California or pertained to the state. This scattered material was brought together as one collection and the California Department thus created. Since that time the resources of the collection have been

steadily increased and its usefulness extended until to-day it is known by collectors, research workers and writers both in this country and abroad.

The book collection now includes volumes by California authors in all branches of literature, science and the arts, county and state histories, diaries, biographies and books on early voyages, explorations and the missions. In short, all books by California authors and books pertaining to this state are made a part of this collection. The work of our fine printers is also represented.

The State Library is fortunate in having an unusually good collection of early California books due to the fact that the collecting of this material was started many years ago when items could be purchased at a low cost. Among these early books are many which today are exceedingly rare and command very high prices. For instance we have Figueroa's *Manifiesto a la Republic Mejicana*, the second book printed on the first printing press brought to California, published in Monterey by Zamorano in 1835. Wierzbicki's *California as It Is, and as it May Be, or, A Guide to the Gold Region*, the second book published in English in California, was printed in San Francisco by Washington Bartlett in 1849. *Benton's California as She Was: As She Is: As She is to Be*, published in Sacramento by the Placer Times Press is believed to be the earliest pamphlet printed in Sacramento, and Slater's *Fruits of Mormonism*, 1851, is apparently the only book published in the historic town of Coloma. Werth's *A Dissertation on the Resources and Policy of California*, published in Benicia in 1851, is an interesting specimen of early California printing and *The First Steamship Pioneers*, San Francisco, H. S. Crocker and Company, printers,



1871, is California's first press book. At the time of issue it was considered one of the finest specimens of printing that had appeared in California.

In addition to the above California imprints several of the rarest and most important early books dealing with the history of California are to be found in the collection. Among them are *The Famous Voyage of Sir Francis Drake* published in Hakluyt's 1589 edition of *The Principall Navigations, Voiages and Discoveries of the English Nation*; Venegas' *Noticia de la California*, Madrid, 1757; Shelvocke's *A Voyage Round the World*, second edition, 1757; Torrubia's *I Moscoviti nella California*, 1759; Baegert's *Nachrichten von der Amerikanischen Halbinsel Californien*, 1772; Palou's *Relacion Historica de la Vida y Apostolicas Tareas del Venerable Padre Fray Junipero Serra*, 1787; Costanso's *An Historical Journal of the Expeditions, by Sea and Land, to the North of California*, Reveley translation, 1790; Laperouse's *A Voyage Round the World*, English translation, 1798; Vancouver's *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean*, 1798; Pomposa Fernandez de San Salvator's *Los Jesuitas*, 1816; Kotzebue's *A Voyage of Discovery*, English translation, 1821; Pattie's *Personal Narrative*, 1833 edition; Bernard du Hautcilly's *Viaggio intorno al Globo principalmente alla California*, Italian translation, 1841; Duflot de Mofras' *Exploration du Territoire de l'Oregon, des Californies*, etc., 1844; Wilkes' *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition*, 1845; Robinson's *Life in California*, 1846; Sherwood's *Pocket Guide to California*, 1849 and Delavan's *Notes on California and the Placers*, 1850.

The collection of county histories includes nearly all which have been published. The early volumes contain much valuable biographical and historical material and

these, supplemented by early directories and great registers of voters, serve as useful reference tools. The directories and registers are also valuable in helping to establish proof of citizenship and in verifying age and residence in this state, particularly for those needing proof of old age pension claims.

A unique feature of the California collection and one that we believe is as complete as any of its kind in existence is that of California fiction. Books with a California setting or by a California author are included in this group. Many of them are autographed and are the gift of the author. Since it has been found that no other class of literature disappears so rapidly as popular fiction these books are kept as a representative collection of this type of literature through the various periods of the state's history.

Pamphlets, too often neglected on account of the difficulty of securing and preserving them, form a very valuable part of the State Library collection. Many early pamphlets have been grouped by subjects and bound in volumes. Among the subjects represented are railroads, land, mining, education and speeches.

The collection of California magazines includes a complete file of *The Pioneer*, the first magazine of importance published in the state, the *Hesperian*, the first magazine illustrated in color, and also complete files of the *Overland*, *Hutchings*, *Californian* and the *Argonaut*. In addition to complete files nearly all periodicals of any importance published in the state are represented in the collection.

Perhaps the California Section of the State Library is better known for its newspaper files than for anything else. These bound volumes of newspapers now number



over 15,000, beginning with August 15, 1846 when the *Californian*, the first newspaper, was started in Monterey. The files include nearly all of the early San Francisco papers, such as the *Star*, the *Alta Californian*, the *Herald* and the *Bulletin*, as well as many northern papers including the *Placer Times* and the *Sacramento Union*. Files of the principal papers have been continued throughout the years and today nearly all the leading dailies and at least one paper from even the smallest county seat are being preserved. An index to the newspaper files commencing with August 15, 1846 and complete to the present day includes entries estimated at over three million in number. This makes possible ready reference to most of the events in the state's history. The key date obtained from the file index enables the library to locate local accounts of events when they are desired. In addition to the newspaper references which are largely from San Francisco papers, entries are constantly added for material in periodicals and books, thus widening the scope and increasing the value of the index.

The manuscript collection includes early mission and commercial documents, reminiscences of pioneers and original letters. The letters are listed both by person and by date and are thus assured of the greatest possible use.

Aside from the very definite types of material already listed there is much in the miscellaneous collection including old account books, scrap books, diaries, book-plates, early ballots and political dodgers, sheet music, theatre and concert programs, and the like. Photographs and autobiographical cards of California pioneers, authors, artists, actors, musicians and state officials are preserved. A large collection of maps is kept in a special map room. Several thousand pictures have been

collected portraying not only important events in the state's development but also California places as well as California birds and flowers. Reproductions of the works of California artists are in this picture collection and the interesting early day woodcuts and lithographs.

Californians everywhere should know of the resources available to them in the State Library and they should be especially proud of the California Section. This brief summary can give only a faint idea of its scope and character but it is ready and available for inspection and use. We are proud of our collection and desire it to be of the greatest possible service.

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#### A CHECK-LIST OF KEEPSAKES

THE Club continues to receive rather frequent requests for certain of the individual parts of the first three series of keepsakes. Accordingly, a list of the parts remaining in stock is printed below. No complete sets remain and in most cases only a small number of the parts listed are on hand.

Of the first two series, the following parts are available and are offered to members at 25 cents each. The printers of the folders are given in parenthesis:

The California Mining Towns: Downieville (Grabhorn Press); Auburn (Schwabacher-Frey Co.); Nevada City (University of California Press); Jackson (Metropolitan Press); Grass Valley (Stanford University Press); Angels Camp (Ward Ritchie); Scotts Bar (Knight-Counihan).  
The Letters of Western Authors: Frank Norris (Johnck & Seeger); Richard Henry Dana (Ward Ritchie); John Muir (Schwartz & Co.); Henry George (Taylor & Taylor); Joaquin Miller (Bruce McCallister); Josiah Royce (University of California Press); Clarence King



(Plantin Press); Edward Rowland Sill (Eucalyptus Press); Jack London (Gregg Anderson).

Of last year's series, The California Literary Pamphlets, five parts remain: Nora May French: Poems (Wilder Bentley); Ambrose Bierce: Selections from Prattle (Windsor Press); Emma Frances Dawson: An Itinerant House (Ward Ritchie); John Muir: Afoot to Yosemite (Eucalyptus Press); Bret Harte: A Night at Wingdam (Plantin Press). The price of the pamphlets of this series is 50 cents each.



### ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP

THE following new members have been elected since March 1, 1937:

<i>Member</i>		<i>Sponsor</i>
Dr. Warren S. Adams	New York, N. Y.	Oscar Lewis
Dr. Walter C. Alvarez	Rochester, Minn.	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. Robert P. Bullard	San Francisco, Cal.	Alfred Sutro
Dwight L. Clarke	Los Angeles, Cal.	T. L. Fritzen
Victor C. A. Edwards	Thornton Heath, Surrey, England	Oscar Lewis
Arthur F. Egner	Newark, N. J.	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. William Hand	Paterson, N. J.	Oscar Lewis
Miss A. M. Hanson	San Francisco, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
M. C. Hixson	San Francisco, Cal.	Edwin Grabhorn
J. K. Javits	New York, N. Y.	H. L. Zellerbach
Edgar M. Kahn	San Francisco, Cal.	Albert M. Bender
Dr. H. L. Mawdsley	San Mateo, Cal.	Miss Barbara Kahn
Frank J. McCoy	Santa Maria, Cal.	Guy J. Giffin
Miss Jean Ransohoff	Claremont, Cal.	Mrs. George Oppen
Reuben R. Rinder	San Francisco, Cal.	Fred W. Bloch
Maxwell Steinhardt	New York, N. Y.	Oscar Lewis
Norman Strouse	San Francisco, Cal.	George Fields
W. B. Weston	Santa Clara, Cal.	N. D. Weeden
Miss Mabel Wood	Palo Alto, Cal.	Miss M. Gertrude Roddy
Frederick A. Young	Balboa, Cal.	Oscar Lewis

Early this year, the Club's maximum membership was increased from 500 to 600, experience having proved the necessity of a larger income from dues for the proper support of the various Club activities. Hav-

ing provided for 100 additional members, the Club is naturally desirous of bringing the roll up to its new (and permanent) limit as soon as possible. With the help of many of the members substantial progress has already been made. Continued cooperation toward that end is invited and will be warmly appreciated. With a membership list standing at 600 the Club will be able, for the first time, to develop its services to collectors to the point of maximum interest and efficiency.

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¶ "A Sojourn at San Francisco Bay in 1816," issued in December, was very well received by the members. The edition was fully subscribed within 90 days of publication and a number of late orders could not be filled. This is the first time in several years that a publication has sold out so promptly. In view of the Club's growing membership, however, this in the future may well be the rule rather than the exception.

¶ A member writes: "Up until a few years ago copies of Club publications were all individually numbered. I note that this is no longer done and would be interested to know why the practise was abandoned." It was abandoned mainly because of recent years collectors have come to recognize that a copy number in a book is usually meaningless and sometimes misleading. The belief that a low number in a book means that it was one of the first from the press, and a high number one of the last, has of course no basis in fact; books are printed in signatures and the latter are invariably thoroughly mixed in subsequent processes of sorting, folding, gathering, etc. This is one reason why the Club decided to discontinue the individual numbering of copies; another reason (to be perfectly frank) is that it involved a lot of unnecessary work.

¶ A note in the March News-Letter stated that six copies of an out-of-print publication, Reedy's "The City That Has Fallen," had come to light, and offered them to the first six members who applied. The result was unexpected. All six copies were sold the day the quarterly appeared and orders continued to drop in over a period of several weeks. Thereupon a search was instituted for copies of other out-of-print books; unluckily, none was found.